

Date: Fri, 12 Mar 93 16:01:13 PST
From: Info-Hams Mailing List and Newsgroup <info-hams@ucsd.edu>
Errors-To: Info-Hams-Errors@UCSD.Edu
Reply-To: Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu
Precedence: Bulk
Subject: Info-Hams Digest V93 #313
To: Info-Hams

Info-Hams Digest Fri, 12 Mar 93 Volume 93 : Issue 313

Today's Topics:

 ALERT: Big Bear Solar Observatory BEARALERT - 11 Mar
 ALERT: SATELLITE PROTON EVENT ALERT
 Anybody got the J-pole file?
 Anyone interested in a VLF radio group? (2 msgs)
 BIRD WATT METER SLUG INFO
 Encoding Greetings
 Foothill Swap: What time? (W-2A For Sale)
 Generic question on J-poles
 Ham Radio Outlet
 HTX-202 MODS ??????
 Kenwood TH78A vs. Alinco DJ580 (2 msgs)
 Motorola HTs (2 msgs)
 TS-440S/AT tuner bug..
 WARNING: POTENTIAL SATELLITE PROTON EVENT WARNING
 WHEN IS BALTIMORE/TIMONIUM HAMFEST?

Send Replies or notes for publication to: <Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu>
Send subscription requests to: <Info-Hams-REQUEST@UCSD.Edu>
Problems you can't solve otherwise to brian@ucsd.edu.

Archives of past issues of the Info-Hams Digest are available
(by FTP only) from UCSD.Edu in directory "mailarchives/info-hams".

We trust that readers are intelligent enough to realize that all text
herein consists of personal comments and does not represent the official
policies or positions of any party. Your mileage may vary. So there.

Date: 12 Mar 93 19:48:59 GMT
From: news-mail-gateway@ucsd.edu
Subject: ALERT: Big Bear Solar Observatory BEARALERT - 11 Mar
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

BEARALERT 1993 March 11

Region at N15 E72 / 11 March 93 -- 2220UT

This new region shows some mixed polarity in the trailing positive flux, but is not a delta configuration. A GOES X-ray class M7 flare occurred at 2158 UT; there was also an earlier flare today at 1651 UT. The flares occurred along the boundary between the main positive polarity trailing spot and a negative satellite spot to the west. Based on persistence, this region has potential for further activity.

Update to 1993 March 08 Bearalert
NOAA region AR7440, S05 W41 / 11 March 93 -- 2230UT

The transverse field in this region has decreased in magnitude since our last alert, and the size of the sheared area is much smaller. Most of the transverse field to the north of the main spot has disappeared, and the penumbra seems to be shrinking. We expect that the likelihood for major flares from this region has also reduced; however, this region does still have the potential for a major flare, as there is still strong transverse field and mixed polarity to the south and west of the main spot.

JRV, GCE

Date: 12 Mar 93 20:51:21 GMT
From: news-mail-gateway@ucsd.edu
Subject: ALERT: SATELLITE PROTON EVENT ALERT
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

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POTENTIAL SATELLITE PROTON EVENT WARNING

ISSUED: 20:45 UT, 12 MARCH

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ATTENTION:

A satellite proton event at greater than 10 MeV began at 20:10 UT on 12 March. Protons at greater than 10 and 100 MeV began arriving from the major M7.0/3N flare at 18:50 UT. Protons at greater than 100 MeV are near a peak flux of approximately 2 pfu at the time of this writing. Protons at greater than 10 MeV have thus far surged up to 17 pfu at 20:45 UT and are continuing to climb. This could become a moderately strong proton event, and will be sufficient to produce polar cap absorption activity. Minor PCA is occurring

at the present time and is slowly intensifying. Radio signals passing through the polar regions will be affected by increased absorption. Near complete absorption of polar path signals may occur for the next 12 to 24 hours.

An alert with a potential terrestrial impact assessment for this major flare will be released over the next several hours.

** End of Warning **

Date: 12 Mar 93 19:57:22 GMT
From: news-mail-gateway@ucsd.edu
Subject: Anybody got the J-pole file?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Hi...

Does someone out there have the (in)famous "J-pole" file that was around a few years back?

I thought I had it, but couldn't find it when one of the local club members asked for it.

I also looked on UCSD.EDU and BUFFALO.EDU to see if I could FTP it, but no luck.

Anybody got it handy?

Date: 12 Mar 1993 21:03:03 GMT
From: sdd.hp.com!zaphod.mps.ohio-state.edu!wupost!cs.uiuc.edu!
vela.acs.oakland.edu!news@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: Anyone interested in a VLF radio group?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Another denizen of the nets and I have been corresponding regarding the possibility of a VLF radio news group, something like rec.radio.vlf. This would cover NDB DXing, natural radio emissions, the 1750 meter band and anything else having to do with the 10-500KHz band.

If anyone is interested in such a group, please drop a note to me directly, mentioning your specific interests. If there's enough response we'll do an

To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

This is really in response to ham in Holland who wanted to buy several Bird watt meter slugs in the VHF and UHF range. Again, my advice to him is when buying high power slugs for 500 and 1000 watts, you only have to buy the one that includes 2 Meter range as it is good (linear) from 6 meters up and beyond the 432 Mc. ham range. So why sucker for the extra slugs unless you are buying 100 watt and down versions? This curve for the 2 meter 500 watt slug version is in the Bird Handbook included with the new Bird. The way some of us have gone is to buy one good Bird and then buy Bird sensor cavities (no slug or meter). You then can use a 50 microamp or 100 microamp meter to extend the range of a slug. Calibration comes via the good/full Bird!
DICK W1DGA

Date: 12 Mar 93 22:38:30 GMT
From: news-mail-gateway@ucsd.edu
Subject: Encoding Greetings
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

And 72, the QRPers smaller version on 73

72
Kevin Purcell N7WIM / G8UDP
a-kevinp@microsoft.com
"We conjure the spirits of the computer with our spells"

Date: Fri, 12 Mar 93 19:52:48 GMT
From: concert!gatech!howland.reston.ans.net!agate!stanford.edu!nntp.Stanford.EDU!
dlewi@decwrl.dec.com
Subject: Foothill Swap: What time? (W-2A For Sale)
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Could someone email me and tell me what time the Foothill Swap starts and how long does it go? (drlewi1@pacbell.com)

Also, a friend has a ICOM IC-W2A handheld transceiver (2m/440MHz) which he's interested in taking there to sell. If anyone out there might be intersted, either email me your phone # (drlewi1@pacbell.com), or tell me how to find you at the swap. We'll be the two 30'ish guys, one w/curely blond hair the other brown.

Thanks,

Dave Lewis

Date: 12 Mar 93 20:25:00 GMT
From: news-mail-gateway@ucsd.edu
Subject: Generic question on J-poles
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Speaking of J-poles...(WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT J-POLES?)...Oh, I did in my last posting to Info-Hams.

Anyway, what experiences have folks had with them? I'm wondering what kind of good and bad characteristics anyone might have to report.

Last January I visited my old club back home, and they were planning a "J-pole Party" at a future meeting. They build them with 1/2" copper tubing so they are pretty sturdy.

The club newsletter was going to print a list of required materials to bring and the Elmers would bring tools and SWR meters and stuff. Then everyone could measure and cut and solder and test, etc. Those who weren't really familiar with soldering or whatever could get a chance to try it with someone there to advise them.

Suddenly they remembered the safety regs at the University-- no open flames or torches! So they postponed it until later in the spring when one of the meetings would be at a picnic outside. B-;

I would like also to hear success/horror stories from anyone who has built J-poles on HF. What's the radiation angle like?

73,
Bob WA8YCD

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=====
Bob West WA8YCD          | "Hey Rocky! Watch me pull a rabbit
wa8ycd@dseg.ti.com       | outta my hat!"
HRD Computer Systems Training | "Yo, Adrian! That moose is back!"
Defense Systems & Electronics Group | --from "Cartoon and Movie Scenes
Texas Instruments, Incorporated | You'll Probably Never See"
P. O. Box 650311 M/S 3928 | -----
Dallas, Texas 75265-0311 |DISCLAIMER: "Who? Me? Speak for my
(214) 917-1908 FAX 917-7519 | EMPLOYER? HAH! Fat chance!"
=====
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Date: 12 Mar 1993 22:52:20 GMT
From: sun-barr!news2me.EBay.Sun.COM!exodus.Eng.Sun.COM!electron!
parkin@decwrl.dec.com
Subject: Ham Radio Outlet
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

I have always had good experiences at the HRO in Sunnyvale, CA.
I have found the staff friendly and competent. I returned
a mobile mount when it didn't fit on my car, with no problem.
The prices are marked on all the rigs on display, and all the HT's in the
case. It is a simple matter to get a quote on items not displayed. All it
takes is to type the item number into the computer. During the week, at the
times I have come in, there is someone available to answer questions, and
quote prices. The setup is nice for checking out the rigs. There
are chairs available to sit down and try out the equipment.
That is the beauty of having a retail outlet in the area.

Mike (KN6AN)

Date: 12 Mar 1993 20:30:42 GMT
From: usc!cs.utexas.edu!asuvax!chnews!joshua!jbromley@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: HTX-202 MODS ??????
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <fred-mckenzie-090393125719@k4dii.ksc.nasa.gov> fred-
mckenzie@ksc.nasa.gov (Fred McKenzie) writes:

>Let's take another look at the HTX-202, and see if there are things that
>can be changed besides the frequency range. I realize no one listens when
>I suggest there may be other mods besides "unlocking" the PLL, but that
>doesn't mean improvements can't be made.

>

>How is the audio frequency response? Is there distortion on strong
>signals? Is the internal speaker loud enough? Is there a better speaker
>available that will fit in the case?

Is it just my unit, or does anyone else find the squelch/audio annoying.
When I turn the volume control down, the opening and closing of the
squelch puts a loud, constant-volume "pop" on the receiver audio. It's
not too bad with the internal speaker or a hand-held speaker-mike. But
it is deafening when using earphones, a headset or a handset. This
just cries out to be fixed. I suspect they are turning the *entire*
receiver audio section on and off with squelch to save power. It just

seems like they could have used a bit more finesse in suppressing switching transients.

>How about transmit audio?

>How stable is the master oscillator?

>If the battery pack goes bad, does anyone sell refill kits?

Good questions.

>If it's going to be
>around for a while, why not start a "FAQ" that discusses the above items,
>or any other items of concern?

Good suggestion. I think there really will be mods for this radio, but not the frequency-expansion kind. Maybe an ftp site for these if there is enough stuff.

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+-----+-----+
| Jim Bromley W5GYJ | |
| Intel Corp. m/s CH3-91 | Celebrating 30 years as a No-Code Technician |
| 5000 W. Chandler Blvd. | |
| Chandler,AZ 85226 | |
| tel: 602-554-5183 | Internet: jlbromley@sedona.intel.com |
+-----+-----+
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Date: Fri, 12 Mar 1993 18:40:54 GMT
From: usc!elroy.jpl.nasa.gov!sdd.hp.com!hpscit.sc.hp.com!icon.rose.hp.com!
greg@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: Kenwood TH78A vs. Alinco DJ580
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Anthony S. Pelliccio (system@garlic.sbs.com) wrote:
: Actually I've had a chance to use both the DJ-580T and the TH-78A. My
: overall impression of the Alinco is bad. Cheap construction and the
: radio is a total bitch to operate. The Kenwood is a nice solid rig and
: easy to use. Not to mention it supports alphanumeric labeling of the
: memories.
:

I haven't tried the Kenwood, but my experience with the 580 has been great! I find it quite easy to use, and at the time I was shopping around (6/92) there was > \$100 difference in their prices (favoring the Alinco).

My only gripe is that the scanning function does not turn off when you hit

a button to switch VFO modes (VFO, memory, or Call). For example, if you are scanning in VFO mode and hit the call button, the Call memory is copied to the VFO, and scanning continues from there. If you are scanning memory channels and go to VFO, it starts scanning the VFO. Hitting the up/down buttons will copy the Call channel to the VFO also. It's annoying, but nothing to trash the radio over.

The mods for extended receive are independent from transmit, and both are easy to do (clip a wire) and undo. Battery life is quite good. Audio is good. Size is nice (fits in your hand nicely). And it doesn't look like something from a sci-fi movie.

Bottom line, I am quite pleased with the radio. The Kenwood does have some nice features (alpha memory labels), but I wouldn't (didn't) pay the extra money for them.

Greg KD6KGW

Date: Fri, 12 Mar 1993 16:08:13 GMT
From: news.acns.nwu.edu!zaphod.mps.ohio-state.edu!uwm.edu!spool.mu.edu!mixcom.com!
kevin.jessup@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: Kenwood TH78A vs. Alinco DJ580
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In <930311.194505.5p8.rusnews.w165w@garlic.sbs.com> system@garlic.sbs.com (Anthony S. Pelliccio) writes:

>Actually I've had a chance to use both the DJ-580T and the TH-78A. My
>overall impression of the Alinco is bad. Cheap construction and the
>radio is a total bitch to operate. The Kenwood is a nice solid rig and
>easy to use. Not to mention it supports alphanumeric labeling of the
>memories.

Well, I've got an Alinco DJ580T and it seems easy enough to use. I DID have to read the manual though. It certainly was not obvious how to do every last function. But now I can do any thing the 580 is capable of without having to look it up in the manual. Then again I wrote this message using vi! (A cryptic UNIX text editor for those of you who have not had the pleasure.) If I can use that, I can use anything! So maybe I'm the exception and not the rule.

Does anyone else have any comments? The DJ580 is my first HT so I'm certainly not an expert. I went to AES and checked out models from Kenwood, Standard, Yaesu and Alinco before making a decision. And I can't say that anyone of them LOOKED significantly better than any of the others. The salesman did say that the Kenwood was probably the most

difficult to use (for a beginner) and that he bought the Alinco for himself. (Maybe he was trying to push Alincos that week?) I also read the 2-meter HT review in QST which had nice things to say about both Alinco and Kenwood.

Regarding Alinco quality...

So have you seen the Alinco ads in QST and CQ? Has anyone actually driven their car over one yet?? Let me know if it still works. Oh, could some Kenwood TH-78A owner please try it too? ;-) It's always good to use an identical procedure for all units under test.

And, changing the subject, are there any "designed and/or manufactured in the USA HTs out there? What about other VHF/UHF amateur radio equipment (other than antennas)?

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Kevin Jessup, kevin.jessup@mixcom.mixcom.com

"Friends don't let friends run DOS."
-- Microware

Date: Fri, 12 Mar 1993 18:16:52 GMT
From: swrinde!gatech!howland.reston.ans.net!usc!cs.utexas.edu!utnut!torn!
csd.unb.ca!unbham@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: Motorola HTs
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

A couple that will work excellent on the amateur bands is the HT-600, Radius P-200, MT1000, Radius P300. These are all synthesised units which are programable with a PC. I use a 99 channel MT1000 on freq as low as 144.000 MHz and as high as 174 MHz.

Don Trynor (VE1ARZ)
UNBHAM@JUPITER.SUN.CSD.UNB.CA

Date: Fri, 12 Mar 1993 21:27:36 GMT
From: netcomsv!netcom.com!pdh@decwrl.dec.com
Subject: Motorola HTs
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

unbham@jupiter.sun.csd.unb.ca (UNBARC) writes:

> A couple that will work excellent on the amateur bands is the HT-600,
> Radius P-200, MT1000, Radius P300. These are all synthesised units which
> are programable with a PC. I use a 99 channel MT1000 on freq as low as
> 144.000 MHz and as high as 174 MHz.

Motorola does not officially sell the software to do this, or the interface needed, or document the interface protocol, to individuals and probably not to some businesses as well. While I have gotten word from a couple of people that I could get free copies of the software under the table, and the interface is at least sold by one other company, this situation makes the Motorola HTs less attractive.

I really would like to have a Motorola HT. Once I get me a small lap-top or handheld that will work with the programming interface, and then go back and find who it was that could get me the software, then I might do it.

What about a dual-bander? I heard a while back that Motorola had one ready to come to the market.

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/*****\
| Phil Howard, pdh@netcom.com, KA9WGN Spell protection? "1(911)A1" |
| "It's not broken... it's just functionally challenged" --Phil and Pete |
\*****/
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Date: 12 Mar 93 11:25:00 GMT
From: netcomsv!netcomsv!pcs!bill.nadzam@decwrl.dec.com
Subject: TS-440S/AT tuner bug..
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Although this is just a wild guess, I would look at the relay that is used in the output section of the rigs final amplifier. This selects several different caps, one per bandwidth coverage, it could be there. Also there are several caps, coil values are selected... etc...

I have also seen a problem like this before on a TS-940S/AT in that while a SB-220 " Heathkit Amplifier" was left in line not even on, just in line, The 940's tuner would not work on 10 Meters. Could or have you tried to hook up to that 50 Ohm dummy load directly? Nothing else in line! Just a thought....

Start with the basics and the cap's switched in and out....

Today is Friday and still NO 8877....

. EZ 1.37 . 73 de Bill K8WN ..._._

Date: 12 Mar 93 18:33:22 GMT
From: news-mail-gateway@ucsd.edu
Subject: WARNING: POTENTIAL SATELLITE PROTON EVENT WARNING
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

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POTENTIAL SATELLITE PROTON EVENT WARNING

ISSUED: 18:20 UT, 12 MARCH

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ATTENTION:

A major class M7.0 flare is in progress at the present time (preliminary maximum occurred at 18:17 UTC. This is a significant energetic flare and is a suspected proton flare. A satellite proton event is expected within the next six to eight hours. A proton enhancement at greater than 100 MeV is also possible and could begin within the next 2 hours.

Polar Cap Absorption (PCA) is expected to increase and may surpass event levels over the next 12 hours.

This flare originated from Region 7440, which is well placed for producing a sharp increase in proton count rates in the near-Earth space environment.

** End of Warning **

Date: Fri, 12 Mar 1993 15:11:22 GMT
From: saimiri.primate.wisc.edu!zaphod.mps.ohio-state.edu!howland.reston.ans.net!gatech!ukma!news1.gsfc.nasa.gov!NewsWatcher!user@ames.arpa
Subject: WHEN IS BALTIMORE/TIMONIUM HAMFEST?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Isn't Timonium soon this year?? Anyone know the date?

Date: Fri, 12 Mar 93 18:52:52 GMT

From: agate!howland.reston.ans.net!gatech!news_feed_1.peachnet.edu!emory!rsiatl!
jgd@ames.arpa
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

References <jzjt6=f@dixie.com>, <cole.109.731876607@soldev.tti.com>,
<1993Mar11.220152.26697@cbnewsm.cb.att.com>
Subject : Re: Ham Radio Outlet incident

jeffj@cbnewsm.cb.att.com (jeffrey.n.jones) writes:

>>4. It isn't fair to HRO's paid employees who have to work with people
>>who aren't particularly accountable to management, and may have to
>>spend extra time and effort training volunteers and fixing their
>>mistakes. This is in addition to the points Bill Newkirk made.
>>
>>5. It isn't fair to people who could use a job.

>The guys that work (volunteer) at HRO for free are idiots! Let's see
>I work 40 hours this week and then out of the goodness of my heart I
>work 8 more? Mean while the owner sits around and gleefully enjoys
>my stupidity as he pulls in more profits.

See, Jeffrey, your problem is, you work a do-nothing job in some non-descript
cubicle job doing something that probably does not matter and thus you have
a warped worldview. And maybe you're just a bit jealous.

For those of us lucky enough or smart enough not to be in such a
situation, perhaps we have a little different perspective. We do things
of great intrinsic value for no compensation because we love doing it.
For instance, in two weeks, I'll be traveling to Gainesville, Florida
on my own nickel to crew for the Gary Johns Drag racing team. Completely
as a volunteer, of course. Why? Because I LOVE racing and most
anything associated with it.

Know what? I'll be the guys who do weekend work at places like HRO also
do it because they love it. They love ham radio, being around hams,
helping people and last but not least, playing in the toy store.
Same things happens every day at my friend's old fashioned computer
store here in Marietta. At any moment there are 2,3, up to 5 or 6 people
in there working on computers for John simply because they love it
and because they enjoy the atmosphere.

Get a life, Jeffery.

John

[A clarification: I don't know for sure whether the guys at the Atlanta

HRO are paid or not because I've never asked. I do know that several hams I know sometimes work there on the weekends. I assume from the number of people involved that they are not paid, as it would make little economic sense. JGD]

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John De Armond, WD40QC	Interested in high performance mobility?
Performance Engineering Magazine(TM)	Interested in high tech and computers?
Marietta, Ga	Send ur snail-mail address to
jgd@dixie.com	perform@dixie.com for a free sample mag
Need Usenet public Access in Atlanta?	Write Me for info on Dixie.com.

End of Info-Hams Digest V93 #313
